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Message Text

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45
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00

AF-10 EUR-25 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01 DRC-01 /115 W
---------- 013683
O R 181240Z JAN 74
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3428
INFO USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 0284

CAIRO AND DEPARTMENT PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS

FROM MEPC DEL

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ICRC, XF
SUBJ: ICRC TO ISSUE APPEAL RE MIDDLE EAST JANUARY 21

1. ICRC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PRESIDENT GALLOPIN USED OCCASION OF JANUARY 18 COURTESY CALL BY ACTING DEL CHIEF STERNER TO ADVISE, FOR SECRETARY'S INFORMATION, THAT ICRC WILL ISSUE APPEAL JANUARY 21 RE CONTINUED NONCOMPLIANCE WITH GENEVA CONVENTIONS IN MIDDLE EAST. APPEAL WILL BE PRESENTED JANUARY 21 TO ALL GOVERNMENTS SIGNATORY TO GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND WILL BE MADE PUBLIC JANUARY 22. GALLOPIN SAID THIS WAS FIRST TIME IN RED CROSS HISTORY THAT ICRC WAS PRESENTING AN APPEAL TO ALL SIGNATORY GOVERNMENTS.

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2. APPEAL, TEXT OF WHICH GALLOPIN LET US READ IN HIS OFFICE,

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STATES ICRC FEELS COMPELLED, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF
DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE TO IMPROVE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW
OPENING IN GENEVA NEXT MONTH, TO DRAW ATTENTION TO SIGNIFICANT
NONCOMPLIANCE WITH GENEVA CONVENTIONS IN MIDDLE EAST.
WITHOUT NAMING ANY MIDDLE EAST STATES, APPEAL DEPLORES (A)
INSISTENCE IN MIDDLE EAST ON RECIPROCITY IN RETURN FOR COMPLIANCE
WITH VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF CONVENTIONS AND (B) TAKING OF
REPRISAL ACTIONS FOR FAILURE OF OPPOSING SIDE TO COMPLY WITH
VARIOUS PROVISIONS OF CONVENTIONS. AGAIN NAMING NO COUNTRIES,
APPEAL SPECIFICALLY POINTS TO: REFUSALS TO PERMIT EVACUATION OF
WOUNDED WHOSE CONDITION REQUIRES EVACUATION; ABSENCE OF INFORMA-
TION FOR FAMILIES OF THE MISSING; ABSENCE OF POW LISTS AND
INABILITY OF ICRC TO VISIT POWS; AND FACT THAT CIVIL POPULATIONS
IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES "ARE OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF HUMANITARIAN
ACTION OF THE ICRC."

3. GALLOPIN NOTED THAT APPEAL DOES NOT CALL ON RECEIVING
GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE ANY PARTICULAR ACTION BUT SAID HE EXPECTED
APPEAL MIGHT RESULT IN GREATER INTERNATIONAL PRESSURES ON SYRIA,
ISRAEL, AND EGYPT TO CARRY OUT THEIR OBLIGATIONS. GALLOPIN
STRESSED THAT ICRC FULLY UNDERSTOOD WHY US DIPLOMACY SINCE
OCTOBER WAR HAD BEEN COMPELLED TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH
SOME HUMANITARIAN ISSUES IN MIDDLE EAST; THAT ICRC WOULD
REMAIN AT PAINS TO DO NOTHING WHICH COULD POSSIBLY INTERFERE
WITH EFFORTS TO SETTLE MIDDLE EAST POLITICAL PROBLEMS; AND THAT
ICRC LOOKED ON ITS JANUARY 21 APPEAL AS COMPLEMENTARY TO AND
PARALLEL WITH US MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES.

4. GALLOPIN SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED TO HAVE OCCASION
TO PASS US ADVANCE WORD ON ICRC APPEAL BECAUSE HE HAD HEARD
THAT SECRETARY MIGHT VISIT DAMASCUS THIS WEEKEND. HE WAS
ASSURED THAT INFORMATION HE HAD PROVIDED WOULD BE RELAYED
PROMPTLY TO SECRETARY.

5. COMMENT: RECITATION IN APPEAL OF SINS OF MIDDLE EAST
GOVERNMENTS (PARA 2, ABOVE), WHICH FOLLOWS NUMERICAL ORDER OF
GENEVA CONVENTIONS, LETS CHIPS FALL WHERE THEY MAY ON BOTH SIDES,
EGYPTIANS BEING AT FAULT RE MISSING PERSONS, SYRIANS RE POWS,
AND ISRAELIS RE MEDICAL EVACUATIONS AND CIVIL POPULATIONS.
LANGUAGE RE CIVIL POPULATIONS SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DRAFTED WITH
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CAUTION AND SHOULD NOT CAUSE UNDUE GOI UMBRAGE. GALLOPIN'S
REMARKS REFLECTED HIS CONCERN THAT USG NOT
INTERPRET THIS ICRC INITIATIVE AS INTERFERENCE WITH US EFFORTS
IN MIDDLE EAST, IN VIEW OF APPEAL'S TIMING. PLEASE NOTE THAT
GALLOPIN ASKED THAT INFORMATION RE ICRC APPEAL AND RE ICRC'S
ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF US BE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL AND BE HELD
STRICTLY WITHIN USG.BASSIN

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NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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TAGS: XF, ICRC
To: SECSTATE WASHDC CAIRO AMMAN BEIRUT JERUSALEM TEL AVIV USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
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